



Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds  
San Wong, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **Iowans Invited to Meet Candidates for Women, Asian and Pacific Islanders Offices**

DES MOINES – All Iowans are invited to meet and question candidates for the Iowa Department of Human Rights' newest executive officer. Three candidates are finalists for the role, which involves leading the Office on the Status of Women and the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

Heidi Smith oversees the Division of Community Advocacy and Services. She said the right candidate must be able to work with women and Asian communities as well as with partners in state government to reduce barriers to these underrepresented populations. "These public presentations will give constituent groups an opportunity to interact with candidates and bring up questions relevant in their communities," Smith said.

Each candidate will spend up to one hour with the public, giving a 15-minute presentation on the topic, "How does your personal mission and professional experience align with the work of the Office on the Status of Women and the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs?" Following their individual presentation, each candidate will take questions from the public.

The presentations will take place December 13 and 14 at the Lucas State Office Building, Room 418, 321 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines. The candidates and the schedule are below:

### **Thursday, December 13**

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – Vienna Hoang  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Trisha Pavelka

### **Friday, December 14**

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Sanjita Shrestha

If you are a person with a disability and need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please contact Heidi Smith, [Heidi.Smith@iowa.gov](mailto:Heidi.Smith@iowa.gov), 515-725-2816 by 4 p.m. Monday, December 10.

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